

HOUSE RESOLUTION 160
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Michael Lynn Cook on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm as public servants of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lynn Cook is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-seven years at the Orange Grove Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee; he will soon be taking a much deserved retirement after many years of meritorious service to the developmentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, earning his Bachelor's degree in Education at West Wisconsin State University, Mike Cook then graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Master's degree in Behavioral Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, beginning his career in the field of developmental disabilities in 1967, Mr. Cook worked as a Direct Support Professional at the Central Wisconsin Center and Training School in Madison, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, having developed a true passion for serving people with developmental disabilities, Mike Cook began working as Program Director at Friendly Village, Inc. in 1970, and in 1974, he moved on to serve as a Field Representative with the Accreditation Council for individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ACMRDD); and

WHEREAS, coming to the Orange Grove Center in 1978, Mike Cook has diligently and tirelessly worked to expand the services and mission of the Orange Grove Center to better serve people with disabilities in Chattanooga, Hamilton County and surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, during his estimable tenure at Orange Grove, Mr. Cook transformed this community based organization serving 450 adults and children in residential and day services

with a budget of \$5 million annually into comprehensive, person-centered program serving more than 650 adults and children with an annual budget in excess of \$28 million; and

WHEREAS, lending his time and talents to numerous projects and organizations to effect improvements in services for the developmentally disabled, Mike Cook has served as President of the state wide trade association for all community agencies serving the developmentally disabled in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a well respected volunteer at the Michael Dunn Center, Mr. Cook exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mike Cook has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his clients and their families alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend Michael Lynn Cook for his meritorious service to the developmentally disabled of Tennessee through his work at the Orange Grove Center and in many other capacities and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.